

WAS CZAR OF THE HOUSE WHEN  
PRESENT SPEAKER "JOE"  
CANNON WAS MEMBER

The return of General J. Warren Kiefer to Congress after an absence of 22 years is of more than passing interest for the reason that he was speaker of the House which was organized in 1881. It was a famous Congress and Kiefer's pathway was not one of roses. He became involved in a controversy with H. V. Boynton, then dean of the Washington correspondents, and the bitter attacks of Boynton had much to do with Kiefer's retirement from public life although he was but 48 when he finished his fourth term in the House. Since then Kiefer had not been idle but has been prominent in civil and military life. He returns to Congress as old Nathaniel P. Banks and Galusha A. Grow. They had been Speakers



many years before and their return was notable. Each, like Keifer, lived for years without prominence in politics but both were older when they came back. General Keifer is now 68 but remarkably hale and hearty. He was always a conspicuous man and is the more so now because of his white hair and beard which were tawny brown in the days of his speakership. He clings to the garb of the old time and wears at times a tailed old fashioned swallow tailed coat cut much like the dress coats of to-day. General Keifer served four terms in Congress, coming to Washington first for the special session of 1877. He was chosen Speaker of the 47th Congress, Dec. 6th, 1881, serving but the one term. Last year he was nominated for Congress and had no very hard time in getting the honor. His majority was among the republicans and his majority was the largest ever given any candidate.

He returns to congress vigorous and eager for active participation in the councils of the nation. As an ex-speaker he has been given a chairmanship and was also allowed the privilege of choosing his old seat without going into the lottery scramble. Speaker Cannon was in Congress during general Kiefer's term as Speaker and they were warm friends. General Kiefer represents one of the best districts in Ohio containing big manufacturing establishments. He has found few of his old colleagues in the House. Many are dead and many more long ago retired to private life. Cannon and Ringland, Pitt and Payne, also Kiefer's old friends, are about all who are now in the House who were with Kiefer in the stirring days of his speakership.

A man who usually grumbled at everything and on every occasion, was attacked by rheumatism. He was carefully nursed by his wife, who was very devoted to him, in spite of his fault-finding disposition. Sometimes the sight of his suffering caused her to burst into tears as she sat at his bedside.

The highest mountain in Africa is in Uganda. On this mountain there are one hundred square miles of snow and ice directly under the equator.

### Congressmen Will Talk, But Won't Pass Bill.

**No Constitutional Provision.**

The reason of this is that the Judiciary Committees, both of the Senate and House, thus early have about concluded that the Constitution of the United States does not provide for the kind of legislation which is recommended in the President's message.

In Delaware, Ohio, an ingenious citizen by the name of Targart lives on a high hill some little distance off the main road. The hill is of loose gravel and at its foot is a small creek. Innocent-looking and easily fooled, on ordinary weather, but swelling rapidly with heavy rains. The rural carrier, who was sent to Targart's place for his residence, found the frequent high water and the rough, hilly road such a source of delay and inconvenience that the Department ordered the route changed and Mr. Targart was directed to place his box on the main road. Mr. Targart protested, declaring that he would not walk that distance. Then his inventive brain conceived the trolley or aerial mail box. At a convenient corner of his porch he placed a window, with a small steel cable extending down to the box-post on the main road, around a deeply-grooved wheel on the post, and back to the porch. As shown, the box is connected in this cable, forming the link for the broken ends. The box is fitted with top wheels, which run on a fixed cable, stretched tight from the porch to the post.

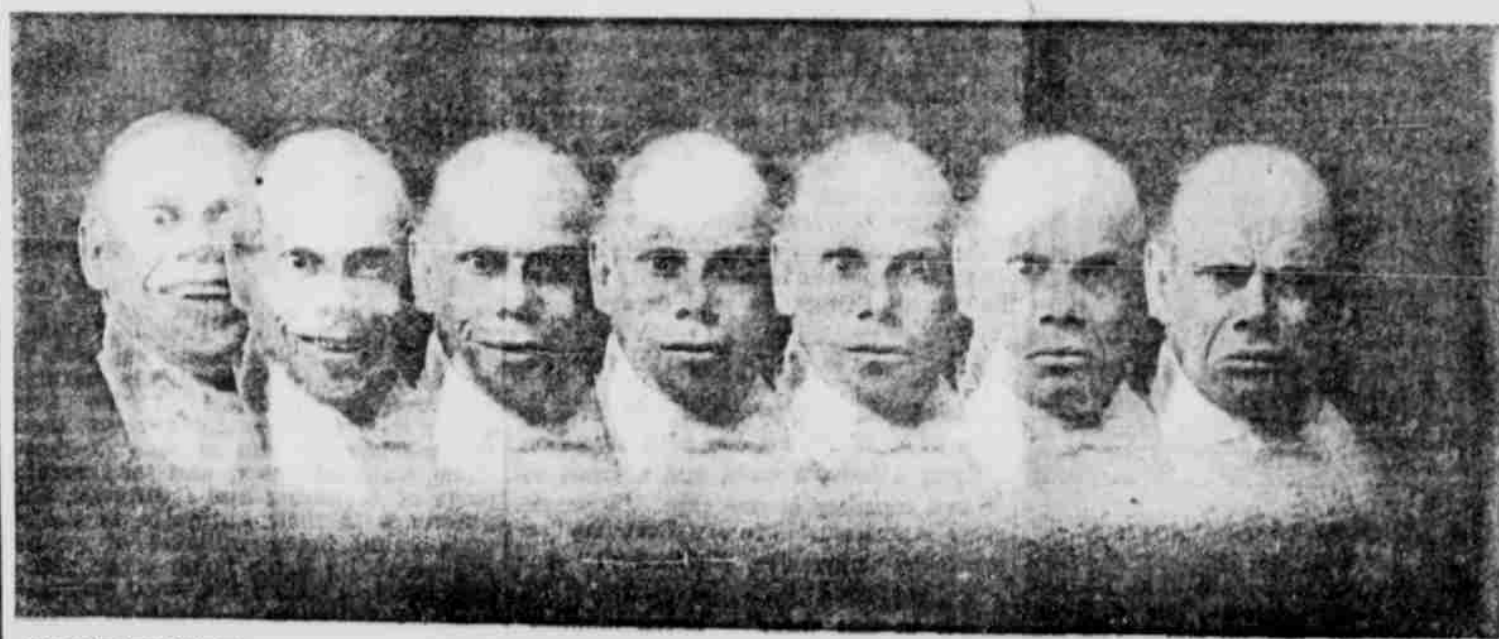
When the mail carrier reaches the box-post (which is visible from the porch), he puts in the mail and raises a signal. Some one at the house takes the handle of the windlass and turns it rapidly, and the box, with its burden of mail, comes sailing up the wire. The mail is then removed and the box



coasts back to its post. The distance of one hundred yards is covered in about ten seconds, which is as fast as a good sprinter can cover the distance. Multiplying gears in the windlass increase the speed. So far as is known, Mr. Taggart is the first to apply this idea to a rural mail-box.

A certain Irishwoman, on her death-bed, called her husband to her side. "Patrick," she said, "I've a last request to make of ye." "I couldn't rathuse ye anything, Mary, darlint," responded the sorrowing husband. "Patrick," said Mary, solemnly, "I want ye sh'd have mother ride in the carriage beside ye to me funeral." "Tis too much ye're askin' of me, Mary!" cried Pat, springing to his feet in desperation. Mary, however, was determined on this point, and Pat finally yielded to her "last request." "I'll have her ride be me side," he promised, weeping bitterly, "but mark ye, Mary, darlint, 'twill spoil the day for me entirely, that it will!"

The English authorities are so relentless toward the adulteration of food and drugs that recently a soda-water manufacturer was fined for putting too small a proportion of carbonate of soda in the water.



"SUNSHINE AND SHOWERS."

Characteristic poses of the Quaint Comedian, Marshall P. Wilder, who styles himself "The Prince of Entertainers and the Entertainer of Princes."

### Defender of His Fame Was Willing but Didn't Know Tricks of Oratory.

The first secret society with which I was ever affiliated was called the "Omega," which was two-thirds literary and one-third social, said an old college man, who has since won distinction as a national orator and campaign speaker. In our rival society, the "Alpha Rho," this order of things was reversed and we prided ourselves greatly on the fact that our "feast of reason" outranked the "flow of soul." Ours was a good deal of oratorical debating society, and though I early gained some reputation as a speaker, I was either too bashful or too ignorant to influence the debates.

One of my intimate chums was named Grant, who excelled in that line and although much younger than the average member, never hesitated to cross swords with the older ones and was not infrequently the victor. He was very anxious that I should learn to debate, and frequently urged me to at least make a commencement, arguing that after I had gotten over my embarrassment, I would enjoy the fun and excitement.

The subject of debate one evening was to be, "Was the influence of Aaron Burr, upon the time in which he lived, good or bad?" Grant knew that I was quite an admirer of Burr, and read quite extensively about him, both in history and fiction, and said to me that this would be an excellent opportunity for me to make my de-

Grant himself was to answer one of the oldest and best defenders and I could answer the one who followed him. He coached me very thoroughly, and made me listen carefully to what the opponents urged against Burr, to cite my proofs, knowing he was neither a Republican nor a Libertine, as they would say, and then show what a debt Washington and the country owed him for his military skill and ability during the Revolution. He said I must not allow myself to become flustered or excited, that I could occasionally refer to my notes and in fact talk and act just as if I were simply arguing with one or two of my school-

During the day I thought much of the important part I was to play in the coming drama, and there seemed to me no reason why I should not score a complete success. But as the hour of my meeting drew nearer the success seemed to grow more problematical and by the time the debate opened, my thoughts were completely topsy-turvy and I could hardly remember whether I was an Italian or a Chinaman.

The man who opened the debate showed plainly that my hero was everything that was vile and wicked and should have been tried and convicted as a traitor, and I found myself wondering how Grant could possibly answer all these terrible charges. But his defense was splendid. He spoke in

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